the herbarium sheets deposited in Kanjilal's Herbarium (ASSAM) it is seen that the original *Homalium ciliatum* Debb. has been scored and corrected as *H. bhamoense* cubitt et Smith var. *debbarmani* Kanjilal *f.* indicating that this was the final opinion of these authors.

Mukherjee (*l.c.*) stated that his species (*H. ciliatum* Mukherjee) is nearest to *H. bhamoense* cubitt et Smith but differs from the latter in having sub-coriaceous leaves with acute base and acuminate apex, inflorescence upto 10 cm long, flowers in 5-8 flowered glomerules. The characters on which he supposedly tried to separate his new species are found in toto in *H. bhamoense* cubitt et Smith var. *debbarmani* Kanjilal *f.*

The full synonymy is as follows:

Homalium bhamoense Cubit et Smith var. *debbarmani* Kanjilal *f.* in *Fl. Assam* 1(1): 85. 1934. *H. ciliatum* Debbarman ex U. N. & P. C. Kanjilal, Das & Purkay. *Fl. Assam* 1(2): i. 1937. (nomen nudum). *H. ciliatum* Mukherjee in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 69(2): 390. 1972.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for suggestions.

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SPOROBOLUS FESTIVUS HOCHST. EX A. RICH. (POACEAE) —A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

While compiling information on grasses of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State, the author collected an interesting species. This could not be determined satisfactorily with the help of available literature on Indian grasses, and was referred to the authorities at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for determination/confirmation. This turned out to be a grass reported so far from Africa. Thus, its occurrence in Indian sub-continent is being reported here for the first time. The detailed description together with notes on ecology, as well as an illustration is provided in the following note.

Sporobolus festivus Hochst. ex A. Rich. Tent. Fl. Abyss. 2: 398, 1851.

Perennial herbs; base fibrous. *Culms* tufted, terete, 10-50 cm tall, simple, slender; nodes glabrous. *Leaves*: sheaths subterete, glabrous, smooth, lower very short and imbricating often forming a thicket, upper up to 3 cm long; ligule a rim of short hairs; blades convolute, 1.5-7×0.5-10.8 cm, glabrous, acute to setaceous at apex.

Panicles effuse, oblong, 4.5-15×1.3-4 cm; branches alternate, filiform, spreading; branchlets capillary, spreading; pedicels filiform, longer than the spikelets. *Spikelets* lanceolate, 1.3-1.7 mm long, slatey-grey. Lower glume hyaline, oblong-lanceolate, 0.4-0.5 mm long, nerveless, subacute to acute with lacerate margin near the apex.

Date of receipt : 21. 2. 77. Date of acceptance : 20. 7. 77

Upper glume hyaline, lanceolate, 0.9-1.1 mm long, 1-nerved, acute at apex. Lemma lanceolate, 1.2-1.6 mm long, 1-nerved, acute at apex. Palea subequal to its lemma, 2-keeled, closely 2-nerved, acute at apex. *Lodicules* 2. *Stamens* 3; anthers 0.8-1 mm long. *Grain* ellipsoid, 0.5-0.6 mm long.

Occasional, in open grasslands and on old, delapidated walls.

Fls. and *Frts.*: August to December.

AURANGABAD: Daulatabad, *Naik* 186; Ajanta, *Patunkar* 1704; Pishor, *Patunkar* 2763. BHIR: Manjlegaon, *Patunkar s. n.* NANDED: Mirzapur, *Patunkar s. n.* OSMANABAD: Nagnath temple, *Naik* 699.

This African species is characterised by the fibrous base (Clayton, personal communication). Just how it has reached India, is not known.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Dr. W. D. Clayton of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for confirmation of the taxon and to Dr. V. N. Naik for his interest and suggestions. My thanks are due to Prof. K. B. Deshpande, Head, Department of Botany, Marathwada University for facilities.

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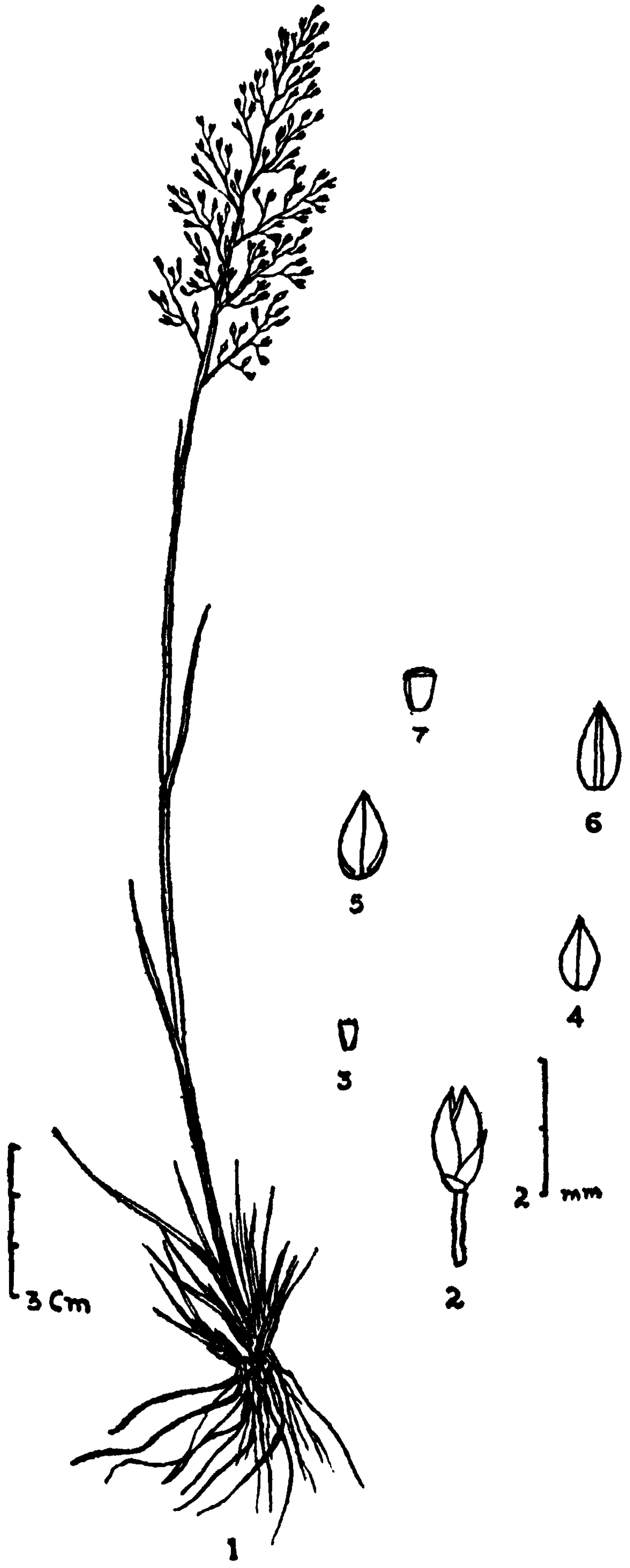

Sporobolus festivus Hochst. ex A. Rich.
Figs. 1-7 : 1. Habit. 2. Spikelet. 3 & 4. Lower and upper glume. 5 & 6. Lemma and its palea. 7. Grain.